

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 08, 2011**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, February 08, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members Present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Pat Rogers, Jane Fowler, Mary Lou McNerney, Theo Loppatto, Mary Lou Urquhart, Pamela Szypulski, and Gloria Farrar.

Note: Pamela Szypulski excused herself from the meeting early.

Also Present: Jean Wode, former CHAC member; Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the January 18, 2011 Meeting

After a couple of amendments, Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Ms. Szypulski seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

- Ms. Olmstead acknowledged the Committee that former CHAC member, Jean Wode, will be attending the meeting and she is considering rejoining CHAC.
- Ms. Olmstead is serving on the Coastal Museum Advisory Committee, and she had recently attending a meeting. The Committee has raised \$20,000 towards building a Coastal Museum in Ocean View, as discussed at the prior CHAC meeting.

There will be an additional dinner fundraiser on February 12th at the Bear Trap Dunes.

The Committee has not yet identified which towns are participating in the Coastal Museum.

Ms. Olmstead explained that a house on Cedar Neck Road, which is going to be restored to its original appearance, has been donated to the Ocean View Historical Society. They will then build a Museum that is adjacent to the house. The museum will include artifacts from coastal towns.

Ms. Olmstead noted that they could think about donating money from the CHAC fund towards this project.

Healy Bros. Proposal for Drexler Plaque

Committee Input Regarding Wording

Ms. Olmstead presented to the Committee the revised wording for the Drexler Plaque with the recommended changes from the last meeting.

The Committee made one minor change to the wording. It is as follows:

*“In Honor of Ensign Henry Clay Drexler USN
Awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor
and the Navy Cross
For bravery in attempting to save his shipmates,
at the cost of his own life, during an explosion
aboard the U.S.S. Trenton on October 24, 1924.
Ensign Drexler was the son of Delaware State Senator
Louis Drexler, and grew up in Bethany Beach.”*

Ms. Olmstead that she is going to send Healy Bros. Inc. as soon as the exact wording is established, and Healy Bros. will send back a proof of the plaque.

Ms. Olmstead made the Committee aware that it will be a large plaque with the current wording.

Once the wording is finalized, they will be able to receive the plaque size and ideas on how it can be displayed.

The Committee discussed where the plaque can be installed to ensure it is noticed by the public.

Input Regarding Historical Plaques for Historical Houses

Ms. Olmstead stated that she will add this item to each future agenda just in case a member has an address of a historical house.

Civil War Anniversary Suggestions for Cultural Evening

The Committee discussed the following potential presenters to have at a Cultural Evening Event:

- 1.) Thomas Ryan: Ms. Young spoke with him and gave his contact information to Ms. Farrar. He is local and a good speaker.
- 2.) Charles Wray: Ms. Loppatto stated that Mr. Wray has two programs, the “Delaware Civil War” and “Civil War and Ghost Stories”
- 3.) Mr. Okonnowitz: Very informative and entertaining

Ms. Olmstead suggested that Ms. Farrar contact these presenters.

Ms. Olmstead said that there should be a handout at the next meeting on all of the potential speakers for the Committee to review.

Ms. Olmstead advised that the Cultural Event should not be scheduled on the same day and time as a presentation at the South Coastal Library. The library's schedule can be checked on its website.

The Committee decided to have the Cultural Event in late March or April on a Tuesday evening.

(Ms. Szypulski excused herself at this time.)

Oral History Update and Listen to Completed Interviews

Ms. Olmstead reported the about twelve (12) interviews have been completed and there are twelve (12) more that need to be done.

The Committee listened to the audio of each of the three of the completed interviews (Jean Steele, Carolyn Hughes, and Judy Savage) and then discussed each of the interviews in able to advise Mr. Ray Disney which parts and information should definitely be included on the Oral History DVD.

The following was information from each interview that the Committee felt was important and appropriate to be on the final DVD.

1.) Jean Steele

- Historical storm of 1962 in Bethany Beach.
- Campfires on the beach when she was younger.
- Entertainment that was in the Town: bowling alley, church and family etc.)
- Donut delivery.
- The changes of Bethany Beach throughout time.

2.) Carolyn Hughes

- Information on Journey's End.
- Water Tower/ "Pre-totem pole" and "post-totem pole"
- Bethany Beach being an alcohol-free town.
- The controversy over building Route 1 through Bethany Beach.
- Confidential radar during World War II – signal corps moved into Journey's End.
- Expressed how this Town has been lucky to have such good people in it.

3.) Judy Savage

- When Bethany Arms Motel was built.
- When Garfield Parkway was a dirt road.
- Collins Tea Room.

Ms. Olmstead suggested that the Committee devote more time to listening to the interviews during the next couple of meetings.

Ms. Wode noted that it will be helpful if the Committee knows of topics that need to be mentioned by future interviewees.

Motion to Adjourn

Ms. Urquhart made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Fowler seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2011 (All CHAC meetings are now scheduled to be on the second Tuesday of each month).

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Shallcross, Admin Secretary